

Montana Division of Criminal Investigation
Investigations Bureau
Fire Prevention and Investigation Section



2004



Administrator *Mike Batista*

Bureau Chief *John Strandell*

State Fire Marshal *Allen Lorenz*

Helena State Fire Marshal phone 406-444-2050

Dedication



“Kazan”

An eight-year-old state employee has retired after six years of work for the Department of Justice, Fire Marshals Office. Kazan, the accelerant-sniffing canine, hung up her badge on Friday, January 30, 2004.

The decision to retire Kazan was made in part to increasing costs to re-certify her every year, the amount of time needed to train her, and the number of calls for her has dropped over the past year.

2004 Fire Report from State Fire Marshal, Allen Lorenz

This report gives information about the activities conducted by the Montana Department of Justice, Fire Prevention and Investigation Section, for the year 2004.

The Section employs the State Fire Marshal, located in Helena, and five Deputy State Fire Marshals throughout the State. The fire marshal's job, in reality, is three jobs molded into one. Each deputy is responsible for assisting fire investigations, conducting fire inspections and promoting fire education programs

Montana has over 400 fire departments, most of which are volunteer agencies. The Deputy State Fire Marshal assists these smaller departments that have not adopted the fire code with fire inspections, investigations and training as requested.

A highlight during the past year was that Montana adopted the 2003 edition of the NFPA1/UFC as the official fire code for the State.

The following pages contain information about the fires in Montana as reported to the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). To the fire departments that report on this system, I thank you for your participation. If your fire department does not use this system, I strongly urge you to do so. The number of agencies that report determines a dollar amount for grant availability within the state.

This report just touches the surface of what we do on a daily basis. I hope you find some of the data useful, and I hope some of it alarms you. Fire deaths in residential occupancies can be reduced if we all do our part to make our state a safer place to live.

Allen Lorenz
State Fire Marshal



FIRE FATALITIES

1976-2004

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>DEATHS</u>	<u>VEHICLE</u>	<u>RESIDENTIAL</u>	<u>OTHER</u>
1976	21	4	14	3
1977	30	2	25	3
1978	25	2	20	3
1979	26	4	19	3
1980	19	4	13	2
1981	20	4	15	1
1982	14	1	11	2
1983	20	0	19	1
1984	27	3	19	5
1985	13	3	8	2
1986	13	5	8	0
1987	21	1	18	2
1988	28	6	19	3
1989	13	1	9	3
1990	22	6	11	5
1991	30	8	19	3
1992	14	3	10	1
1993	17	1	14	2
1994	15	6	7	2
1995	13	0	9	4
1996	NOT AVAILABLE			
1997	14	7	6	1
1998	22	1	17	4
1999	15	2	12	1
2000	11	3	8	0
2001	10	3	6	1
2002	13	3	6	4
2003	13	3	9	1
2004	17	5	12	0
TOTALS				
28	516	91	363	62

OTHERS =

BUSINESS, WILDLAND, INDUSTRIAL, PLAYING, CARELESSNESS

The Deputy Fire Marshals are assigned designated areas in the state.



Mike Stotts - Kalispell
406-257-2584



Dick Swingley - Great Falls
406-453-4241

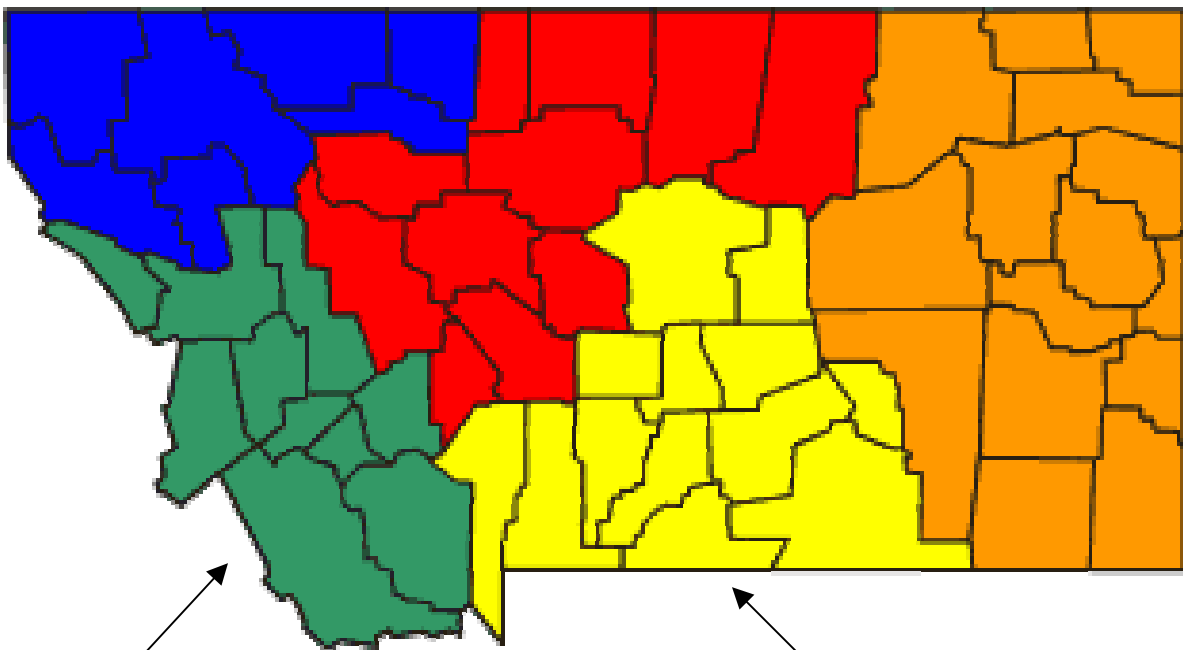


Jerry Smith – Miles City
406-232-9765

Northwest

North Central

Eastern



Southwest

South Central

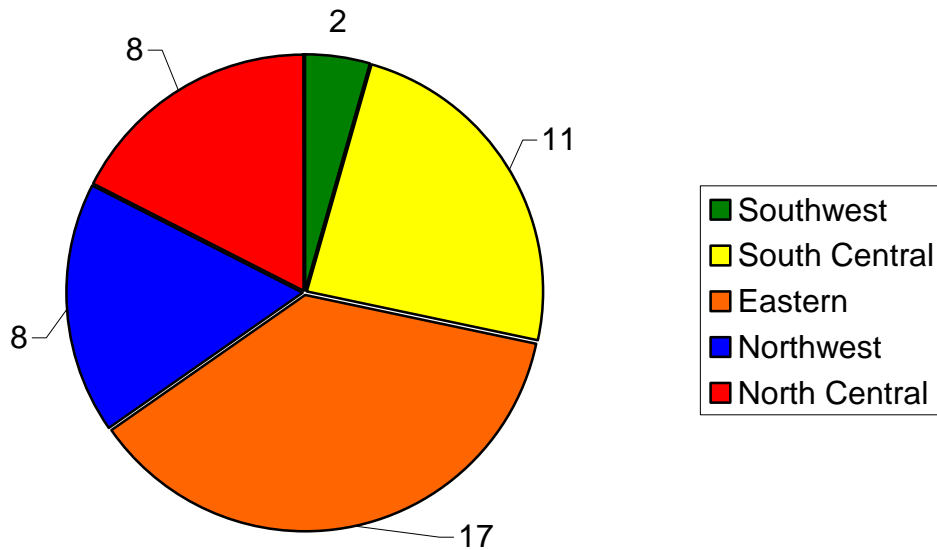


Dick Larson – Missoula
406-329-1452



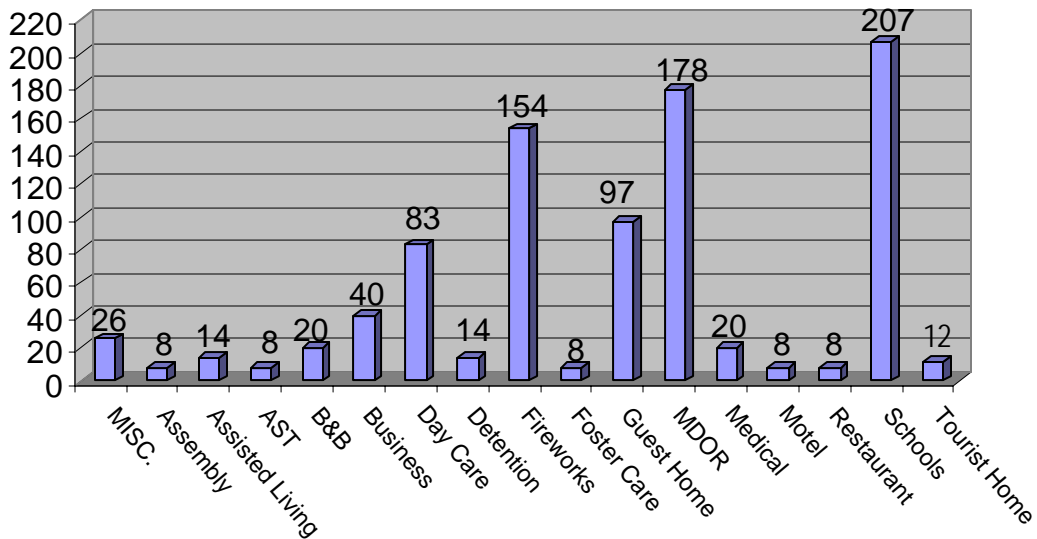
Sally McKenna – Billings
406-896-4388

Montana Fires Investigated by Deputy State Fire Marshals for 2004



The five Deputy Fire Marshals cover the entire state. They are called out on fire investigations and to provide assistance. They also are required to do inspections on many public buildings as well as privately owned structures with public access.

Inspections for 2004



Fire Incident Reporting System

N.F.I.R.S.



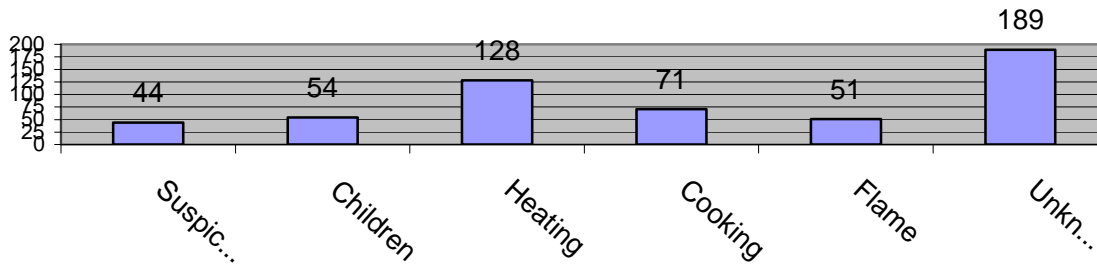
From the desk of
Mike Stotts

Mike Stotts – Deputy Fire Marshal
NFIRS Specialist
406-257-2584

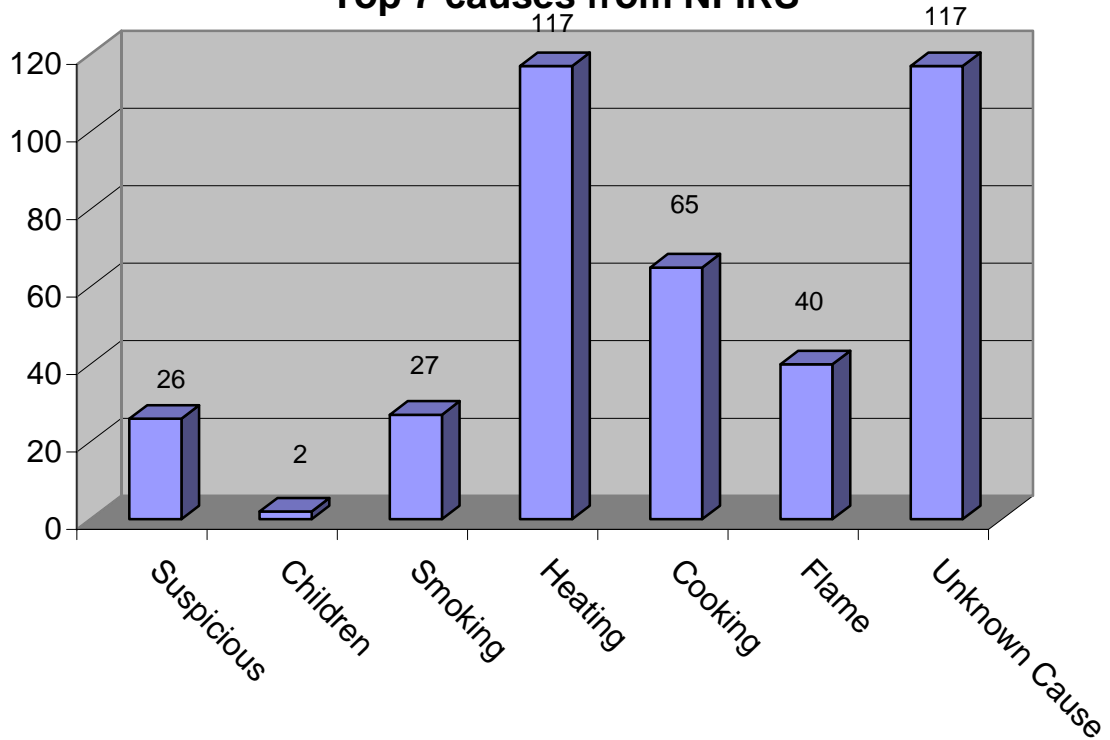
As the state program manager for the fire reporting system (NFIRS), the mission of the Fire Marshal's Office is to encourage all fire departments to participate in reporting not just fires but all incidents by the using a standardized reporting system as a means of addressing the state's fire problem and related emergency service issues. Montana is an active member in the National Fire Information Council which plays a major role in reducing injuries, fatalities and economic losses for fire and related emergencies by facilitating the collection, compilation, analysis and use of the data.

The new version 5.3.3 software is available for download or a copy may be obtained by contacting Mike. To download the software login to the NFIRS web site at <http://www.nfirs.fema.gov/users> The software executables are located on the page named: Download Software.

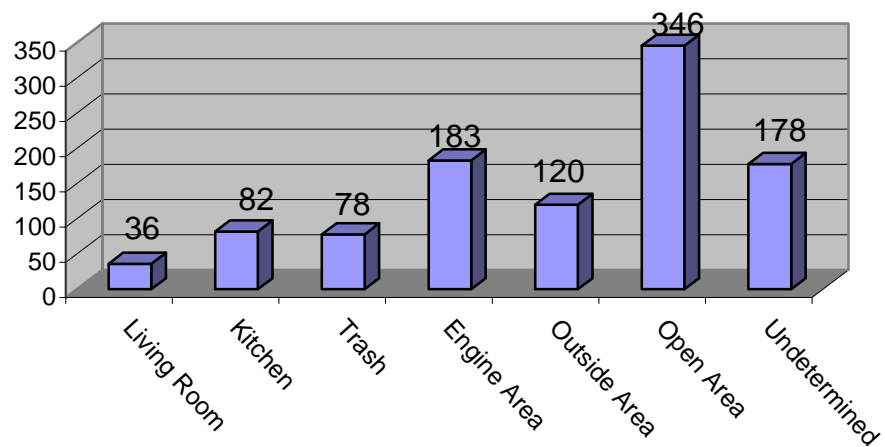
Structure fire causes 2004
Top 6 categories from NFIRS



Residential Structure Fire Causes 2004
Top 7 causes from NFIRS



Areas of Origin 2004
Information from NFIRS



Protecting our children

Fire inspections are done on many buildings every year. School buildings are the most requested inspections that our Fire Marshals receive.

In 2004 - 207 schools were inspected by the state.



Our children go to school every day for nine months out of the year. We all can take part in keeping our schools safe. See next page for a quick checklist.



*Snap shots
from Jerry*

Check List from Sally



Exit paths to be unobstructed ... width of corridors to be maintained clear.



Exit doors to be UNLOCKED – no chains, bars or locking devices on panic hardware.



Exit lights illuminated



Fire Alarm systems in working order



Fire Extinguishers accessible and tagged as “current”.



Combustible decorations to be flame retardant



Check this picture out.

The small round table is blocking the exit. The **fire extinguisher** is on the wall behind the table and chairs making it difficult to reach.

**Don't forget the fire drills!
Practice, Practice, Practice!**







